

Linda gets her man!

LINDA Redford, wife of Walton and Hersham manager Bill Redford, missed their Isthmian League match at Hornchurch last Saturday because she was signing a player.

She was at Hillingdon Borough where she completed the transfer of striker Tony Burge 20 minutes after the Southern League match against Minehead.

Walton thought they had signed Burge earlier in the week. But with a sudden about-turn, Hillingdon decided they needed him for the Minehead match.

Bill Redford said: "We needed an experienced player to strengthen our promotion challenge. Although we were disappointed at being unable to obtain him for last week's game, we see him as a worthwhile investment."

Redford also expects to clinch the signing of a midfield player later this week. With the talented Tommy James missing the last seven matches because of knee ligament trouble and possibly facing a further long spell out of the game, a replacement is badly needed.

Southall manager Geoff

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL NEWS

Taylor slammed the Isthmian League's decision to make them go ahead with last Saturday's match at Enfield. He had to call two players — Cliff Rapley and Duncan Clough — out of retirement and field five teenagers in order to field a team after his side had been ravaged by 'flu.

Taylor said: "Earlier in the season when Slough were hit by injury they received permission to call off their Monday evening match against us on the previous night. We got nowhere with our appeal. It seems there is one rule for the rich and one for the poor and we are definitely among the poor." Geoff forgot, however, that Slough have no reserve side.

This situation is certain to change next season thanks to the sponsorship of the Isthmian League Youth Cup by Berger Paints. Clubs are beginning to realise that there is more to going open than signing a first team squad of players on contracts and this sponsorship can only serve to strengthen the League in depth.

Already Leytonstone, who have cut out all players' expenses and bonuses, have taken two of the local boys clubs, Cawley and New Forest under their wing. Each of these clubs

run seven junior teams. Leytonstone also plan to spend about £15,000 on expanding their Cedars Clubhouse.

Slough also plan to tap the pool of local youth talent while Barking have adopted River Hawk, one of the top youth outfits in Newham and Hendon have linked up with Watling Boys.

Enfield, too, are having serious thoughts about this next season. "We didn't enter the Berger Cup this season because our youngsters are only about 14 or 15 years old and this is an under 18 competition which meant they would have got hammered every week," said secretary Alan Diment. "But obviously we must consider this in the future."

Woking's Army player Michey Dolg is set to join Farnborough while Hillingdon Borough are keen to sign Dulwich Hamlet's transfer listed defender Danny Godwin. Hillingdon manager Jimmy Langley had a spell in charge at Champion Hill last year.

Letchworth defender Paul Bowgett so impressed Spurs manager Keith Burkinshaw in recent trials that he has been signed on contract. Ilford have

released former West Ham striker Alan Bond who is expected to join Dagenham and defender Russell Mumford has also left the club. Hitchin have released midfielder Kevin Mulkern — Enfield are interested.

Sutton have signed striker Peter Kemp from Maidstone. He had scored 15 goals in the Southern League this season. Another former Middlesex League player, striker Kevin Jackson from Yeading, will make his debut for Staines shortly. The last player to join them from this league was Peter Shaw, subsequently sold to Charlton for £10,000.

Kingstonian have signed the experienced Fred Pudney formerly with Hendon and Dulwich Hamlet. Finchley are looking for a new physiotherapist following the decision of Barry Palmer to move to Norfolk. Kingsbury have sacked manager Gordon Wilson who took over from Tommy Darling at the start of the season.

Moreton Town, the current Hellenic League champions, are withdrawing from the League to enter the West Midlands Combination because of the heavy travelling costs in the Hellenic competition, which covers five counties.

Wycombe frozen out once again

WYCOMBE Wanderers were out of luck yet again on Saturday in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. Having waited a month to play their game in the last round at Slough due to weather, the Blues were hit by the frost again when the Chesham ground was declared unfit for play.

A severe overnight frost on Friday was the reason for the postponement, although a decision was delayed until the referee's inspection at 1.30 p.m. This kept many Wycombe supporters in the dark and those who made the journey to the Meadow were disappointed.

Wanderers were told there would be an inspection at noon, but due to the delay of one and a half hours they were unable to put the verdict on their ansafone service until about 1.45 p.m.

Wycombe have been plagued by postponed games in the County Cup this year and the latest delay again raises the question of whether Senior Cup matches should be played in mid-week. This was the fourth Saturday lost in five weeks, which adds up to a considerable loss of income.

Thankfully, the Blues have been able to arrange some Isthmian League matches before they return to Chesham for the Berks and Bucks Semi-final. Tonight

(Tuesday) they travel to Woking while on Saturday they stage their first home league game since December 3. This will be against Tilbury.

Next Tuesday (February 28), Wanderers are again at home, this time entertaining Maidenhead United in the second round of the Hitachi Isthmian League Cup. On Saturday March 4, the Blues are away to Chesham in the re-arranged Berks and Bucks Senior Cup semi-final while on March 7, they meet Croydon for a home league match.

These home Isthmian games are long overdue and Wycombe will be hoping that their supporters return in numbers. At least the Loakes Park pitch will be in great shape after such a long period of inactivity.

REMARKABLE

Wanderers' visit to Kingfield tonight will be their first league outing since January 7 when they won 2-1 at Tooting and Mitcham. Woking's pitch is reputedly in good condition and providing there is no change in

the weather, the game should definitely be on.

This has been a remarkable season for the Surrey club. They started disastrously and sunk to the foot of the table until Fred Callaghan took over as manager. He immediately trimmed the squad by getting rid of some ten players.

Callaghan managed to tempt Laurie Churchill from Wycombe to become his coach and the results have improved no end. On Saturday Woking went down 2-1 at Dagenham but that was only their third defeat in 13 matches.

Wanderers will be facing two of their former colleagues in Dave Alexander and Derek Cotterill, who are both playing in midfield. Big Frank Parsons, who joined from Staines this season, is the goalkeeper while former England Amateur international Mick Preston lends plenty of height to the back four along side Malcolm Whatford.

Steve Cosham and Alan Morton have both been among the goals but Cosham is doubtful for tonight's game after needing stitches in a leg injury on Saturday.

Wanderers hope to be at full strength and are likely to field the side that won so convincingly at Slough last Tuesday.

ENFIELD SHOCK

ENFIELD, runaway leaders of the Isthmian League, crashed to only their third defeat of the season on Saturday — but it did nothing to alter their position at the top. Enfield fell 1-0 at home to Sutton in the London Senior Cup with Derek Possee scoring the winner.

Several clubs managed to escape the grip of winter on Saturday in the Isthmian League. Dagenham benefited by moving up to fourth spot after a 2-1 win over Woking while Hendon thrashed Carshalton 5-0 at Claremont Road with Brookes hitting a hat-trick.

Slough came from behind to win 3-2 at Leytonstone while Tooting proved too good for Southall, winning 2-0 at Sandy Lane. Tilbury, Wycombe's opponents on Saturday, drew 1-1

with Hayes while Croydon managed an identical scoreline at Staines.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to and Inc. 20/2/78)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	27	22	4	1	63	16	70
Wycombe	26	17	2	7	46	26	63
Leatherhead	27	14	7	6	48	26	49
Dagenham	28	14	5	9	52	41	47
Tooting	29	13	8	8	42	35	47
Hitchin	26	13	7	6	43	30	46
Croydon	28	13	7	8	45	37	46
Carshalton	29	12	8	9	46	43	44
Hayes	30	12	7	11	37	40	43
Hendon	29	12	6	11	45	37	42
Sutton	25	11	6	8	33	36	39
Staines	26	10	9	7	33	36	39
Barking	28	11	4	13	45	45	37
Slough	27	9	5	13	37	47	32
Walthamstow	22	8	7	7	34	34	31
Borham Wood	26	8	12	35	45	30	30
Kingstonian	29	6	8	15	30	42	26
Woking	25	7	4	14	36	43	25
Tilbury	26	5	9	12	34	43	24
Southall	28	4	9	15	28	51	21
Leytonstone	32	3	12	17	32	56	21
Stortford	27	3	6	18	26	60	15